

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-12 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIEP-03

STR-08 AGR-20 DRC-01 /149 W
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R 021540Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 385

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1762

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GY

SUBJECT: RICHARD ISHMAEL RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF GUYANA
TREDES UNION CONGRESS

REF: GEORGETOWN 1718

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. AT GUYANA TRADES UNIONCONGRESS 21ST ANNUAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE, MANPOWER CITIZEN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT RICHARD ISHMAEL WAS RE-ELECTED TO SECOND TWO YEAR TERM AS TUC PRESIDENT. ISHMAEL DEFEATED CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNIONPRESIDENT GORDON TODD IN RACE FOR TOP POSITION IN GUYANA MAJOR LABOR FEDERATION BY VOTE OF 103 TO 50.

2. ORIGINALLY SEVEN CANDIDATES HAD ENTERED RACE FOR TUC PRESIDENCY. AS ELECTION DAY, SEPT 29, APPROACHED, MOST TUC LEADERS BELIEVED ONLY ISHMAEL, TODD AND BASIL BLAIR (PRESIDENT OF GUYANA TEACHES ASSOCIATION) HAS REAL CHANCE OF VICTORY AND THAT TODD WOULD WIN
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TREE WAY RACE. BLAIR, HOWEVER, WITHDREW ALONG WITH THE MINOR

CANDIDATES AND LEFT ONLY TODD TO FACE ISHMAEL. ISHMAEL'S MARGIN OF VICTORY INDICATES THAT HE RECEIVED MOST VOTES OF THOSE SUPPORTING BALAIR CANDIDACY.

3. IN OTHER KEY RACES FOR TUC OFFICES, NORMAN SEMPLE (PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION), EGBERT BOLTON (PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES), AND JOHN LANGRY (PRESIDENT OF TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION) WERE ELECTED TUC VICE-PRESIDENTS.

PHILBERT BENJAMIN (GENERAL SECRETARY OF GUYANA MINeworkERS UNION) WAS CHOSEN AS TUC PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY. TUC GENERAL SECRETARY JOSEPH POLLYDORE WAS NOT UP FOR RE-ELECTION THIS YEAR.

4. OUTGOING PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE DE PEANA (GENERAL SECRETARY OF CLERICAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION) WAS ELECTED AS ONE OF THREE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AFTER HE DECIDED NOT TO RUN FOR HIS OLD POSITION. DE PEANA CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING GUYANA IN OCTOBER TO ASSUME ILO POSITION IN JAMAICA. DE PEANA SAYS HE WILL BE IN JAMAICA AT LEAST ONE YEAR, AND HOLDING TUC ASSISTANT SECRETARYSHIP WAS EFFORT TO MAINTAIN FOOTHOLD IN GUYANA LABOR MOVMENT SHOULD HE DECIDE TO RETURN.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. COMMENT: CLEARLY ISHMAEL'S VICTORY HAD GOVT'S APPROVAL-- IF ONLY AS LESSER OF TWO EVILS FROM ITS POINT OF VIEW. BLAIR WHO WITHDREW IN FAVOR OF ISHMAEL WAS CANDIDATE OF PRO-GOVT FACTION OF TUC. ISHMAEL ALSO RECEIVED BOOST FROM ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOVT WOULD CONCILIATE INTERIM PAY DISPUTE IN SUGAR INDUSTRY (REFTTEL) THEREBY PROVIDING ISHMAEL WITH A SAVING WAY OF CALLING OFF STRIKE WHICH HAD FAILED. ALTHOUGH ISHMAEL HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CRITIC OF GOVT, HE IS LESS CREDIBLE THREAT THAN YOUNGER AND MORE MILITANT TODD. OVERALL, NEW TUC EXECUTIVE, WITH SEMPLE, LANGRY AND BENJAMIN MOVING INTO KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, TODD DROPPING FROM LIST OF OFFICERS, AND DE PEANA HEADING FOR JAMAICA, WILL HAVE SLIGHTLY MORE PRO-GOVERNMENT CHARACTER.

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